इसके अतिरिक्त छोटी नर्सरियां स्थापित करने की मांग अधिक है।

(ग़) हालांकि समग्र लक्ष्य कर लिया गया है। सरकार कड़े प्रबोधन के द्वारा लक्ष्यों की उपलब्धि सुनिश्चित करने के ठोस प्रयास कर रही है। इसके अलावा चालू वर्ष के दौरान छोती नर्सरियों के लक्ष्यों को बढ़ा दिया गया है।

Jhum cultivation in Assam

1700. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any step to stop jhum cultivation (cultivation in hilly land) in the tribal hill areas of Assam giving alternative source of income to the people who are dependent on the same; and

(b) if so, what are the details indicating the policy of Government and steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Scheme of Watershed Develop-ment Project in Shifting Cultivation areas, with 100% central assistance of State Plan, is being implemented in the State of Assam since 1994-95. It envisages protection of hilly lands through various soil and water conservation treatment measures in order to reduce further land degradation, thereby improving the socio-economic status of the Jhumia families. Upto the end of the 8th Five Year Plan, an area of 3142 ha. has been developed benefitting 3969 jhumia families with an expenditure of Rs. 200 lakhs. The Scheme is being continued during the 9th Plan in the State.

Besides, the following schemes are also under implementation in the State of Assam for control of shifting cultivation (jhum cultivation);

(i) Integrated Jhumia Development Programme (IJDP).

(ii) Mini Compact Areas Development Programme.

(iii) Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation Ltd. (AICDC Ltd.) has been set up to provide gainful employment of Jhumia tribal people.

Elimination of middleman system to benefit farmers

1701. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that middlemen reap the benefits at the cost of farmers in the country as the farmers are not given remunerative prices whereas middlemen take maximum benefits out of their produce;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to eliminate the middlemen system in the country by bringing forward a legislation for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Middlemen have been present in the marketing system for more than a century. By way of their comparatively better knowledge of buying and selling activities, they undertake transactions on behalf of the farmers. In order to check exploitation by the middlemen, State Marketing Legislations have already fixed the charges for the services rendered by them. Under this legislation, the middlemen arc closely observed for proper method of sale, correct weighment and prompt payment so that the farmers are not exploited and get appropriate dues on sale of their produce.